Stran Bodden

Chief Officer

Ministry of District Administration, Tourism & Transport

 March 12th , 2019

Dear Mr. Stran Bodden,

I am writing this letter because I am majorly concerned about the future of the Cayman cruise ship contractors. Their services will no longer be required by Carnival because of the steps that Carnival has taken to establish an office in Mexico through one of their operatives, whose name is Hector Sapata who is a Tour Operator in Mexico, who has entered into an arrangement with a Caymanian. All of their businesses will eventually be funneled to the Mexican office through their Cayman fronting company.

If you as a representative wish to understand this problem, you only have to discuss it with Mervyn Cumber from Don Foster Dive Cayman. The blow that they have been dealt from Carnival has now resulted in the closure of their water sports company. On behalf of Don Foster Dive Cayman, I can vouch for the quality of their equipment. I have worked alongside them, viewed the quality of their vessels, and have seen their safety practices and the quality of their staff. I would give them an ‘A,’ but despite of all the records, their services are no longer required by Carnival, as I said, which resulted to the closure of their water sports company. The large boats that are owned by them were purchased for the purpose of doing cruise ship tours, and they are now all for sale. The timing of Carnival taking over the watersports through their operative coincide with the government request for them to finance the construction of a pier. Never before have they tried to undermine the local operators and grab control in this manner. Again, if I have left out anything, please contact Mervyn Cumber from Don Foster Dive Cayman. He can fill you in with the rest.

I believe it is the responsibility of our representatives to protect an industry that was built by the first arrival Caymanians, and to protect our economy from those who would seek to deprive Caymanians of their dreams through their backdoor dealings.

I write this letter to all of you so I can see who cares and who will do something to defend the local operators. It is apparent that if something is not done, the Land and Sea Cooperative, which the government have spent so much money in assisting, will also suffer the same fate. We too, like Don Foster Dive Cayman will have to close our doors with some bogus excuse. I am hoping to find out which one of our representatives is willing to fight for us before it is too late.

At present, there are buses and boats being bought for people who have no ability to finance such equipment. There are others to come. I will share with you that Carnival tried this in Roatan. They tried to have the local operators sell their small buses and they would finance the buying of large buses under an agreement drawn by Carnival. The question was asked what will happen the day Carnival is not happy with a bus operator, or if the bus operator is unable to make his payments. Carnival would then be free to repossess the equipment. The drivers would be fired and Carnival will be in control. The people protested and their government said, “This is not going to happen.” This tells us that their government cares about their people. I am hoping ours do too.

Sincerely,

Bryan Ebanks

Dr. Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP , Hon MSc, MLA

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

PO Box 321, West Bay, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

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**Premier**

Box 1655, Grand Cayman KY1-1109, Cayman Islands

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Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

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Deputy Governor

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Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

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[Mr. Arden McLean, JP](http://www.legislativeassembly.ky/portal/page/portal/lglhome/members/previousmembers/2017-2021-Members/amclean)

PO Box 177 SAV, Grand Cayman

KY1-1501, Cayman Islands

[Mr. Christopher Saunders](http://www.legislativeassembly.ky/portal/page/portal/lglhome/members/previousmembers/2017-2021-Members/csaunders)

Government Administration Building

133 Elgin Avenue, George Town
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Stran Bodden

Chief Officer

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